

Gentlemen:

I find it difficult to believe that the FCC is considering allowing the operation of cell phones during flight. We often see the rude behavior of cell phone users on airplanes - continuing to talk as the plane is pushed back from the terminal, calling while in flight, screaming into phones as if they were in a soundproof chamber.

But these people are not in soundproof chambers. Some of us are either nervous enough about flying, or just want to spend those few hours relaxing (maybe even sleeping) before heading off to an important meeting or a well-deserved vacation. Having someone jabbering throughout a flight is NOT conducive to any relaxation. I don't need to know whether or not his/her business associate is an idiot/"babe"/genius in colorful language, the drug deals that are about to occur, or the complications of the operation that mom/dad/grandma/grandpa/aunt/uncle just had. And I surely wouldn't want any children of mine to hear how much the person next to me loves his/her partner (in explicit graphic detail), just because she's sitting within a few feet of the cell phone user.

And we still don't have enough studies on the negative effects of the additional radiation from the phones on the brain. Obviously, cell phones negatively affect their users, as evidenced by the number of traffic accidents (including pedestrians who become as oblivious as drivers) related to cellphone use.

I want to continue to fly WITHOUT being kept awake by a one-sided conversation, or having to shield innocents from the conversations that should NOT be public. It's bad enough to hear "I've just landed..." even before we have taxied from the runway.

- Rod Wood